Mesopotamia G.E.T. Captions

Mesopotamia Caption 1- Ancient Babylon-

According to Our World, Babylon is a city in northern Mesopotamia that is from about 3500 B.C. The city is located on the east and west banks of the Euphrates River. Farmland and rolling plains surround the city. It is a dry, hot, climate around Babylon in the spring and summer. It is a mild climate in the fall and the winter.

There were many jobs or positions that people had to make money for them and sustain the economy. The four most important of those jobs were kings, tradesmen, craftsmen, and farmers. According to The Epic of Gilgamesh, Mesopotamian city states had many specific jobs, like we have today, such as; jewelers, ivory workers, bronze workers, iron workers, and many more jobs. One “job” that helped sustain labor was slaving. Slaves mainly served for kings and noblemen. The other essential position was being a soldier. Usually soldiers did not volunteer. The soldiers kept the rights and land of Babylon to Babylon. Some of the essential foods that the people of Babylon would eat were; livestock [cattle, goats, pigs, sheep], grains [wheat and barley], fruits [pomegranates, melons, grapes, dates, etc.], and vegetables [onions, lettuce, herbs, cucumbers, etc.].

There were many essential tools, ideas, and inventions that the Babylonians used. Irrigation was a system that flowed water along a path into the fields where crops were growing. This helped water the crops, even during droughts! Cuneiform was one of them too; it was one of the first systems of writing in the world. It was picture symbols that had meaning and there were about 500 symbols!! Cuneiform was written on wet clay tablets. It was used to keep track of items and events. Without it the city would have no records or tracks, and then that would lead to a citywide meltdown. To read and write cuneiform; the Mesopotamian people [usually kings or nobles] used scribes. Scribes were also a new idea. Focusing on the city of Babylon, some tools used were; palaces, ziggurats, clay bricks [mud + hay], bridges, moats, markets, gardens, arches, gates, roads, and walls. These buildings and structures helped show Babylonian; religion, architecture, and royalty. The aqueduct was also an important structure/tool that the Babylonian’s used, because it transported drinking water to places quickly and effectively. Walls were an essential asset to the city because, they protected the city from invaders and made other city’s armies tremble upon the mighty walls [intimidation]. One of the most important inventions, solely created by Babylon, was Hammurabi’s Code. It was the first recorded code of law in human history!!!!!!!!! According to “Iraq: Crucible of Civilization”, three other ideas that Babylon accepted were the; 360 degree circle, the 60 minute hour, and the wheel. The wheel was important because it helped carrying devices, carts, and early chariots move around quicker and easier. Babylon was one of the most powerful and intelligent cities of Mesopotamia.

Mesopotamia G.E.T. Caption 2- Ur

According to Our World, Ur used to be located on the banks of the Euphrates River. In this century; the Euphrates River has shifted its course away from Ur. Ur is located in Sumer [southern Mesopotamia]. During its rein; Ur used to be part of the Sumerian Empire. As one of the cities of Sumer; it is in a more tropical and fertile region than the rest of Mesopotamia. Back 5000 years ago, Ur used to be surrounded by large forests and fertile farmland. According to The Epic of Gilgamesh Sumer was a land with many forests. The climate of Ur is dry and hot in the spring and the summer, and mild in the fall and winter.

The people of Ur’s economy basically revolved around the same jobs and positions as most other Mesopotamian cities. The three essential jobs were; craftsmen, tradesmen, and farmers. These jobs really sustained the economy. . According to The Epic of Gilgamesh, Mesopotamian city states had many specific jobs, like we have today, such as; jewelers, ivory workers, bronze workers, iron workers, and many more jobs. The main position that kept order over the city was the King of the City-State of Ur. The army is also an important part of the economy. Then main labor force of Ur were slaves. They built walls, palaces, gardens, they personally served the king, and they were sold to foreign people for money. It protected the rights and land of Ur. The essential foods that the people of Ur ate were; livestock [cattle, sheep, pigs, goats], vegetables [onions, lettuce, cucumbers, beans, and herbs], fruits [pomegranates, dates, apples, and possibly bananas], and grains [wheat and barley]. These were the foods that were available to the people of Mesopotamia.

The city-state of Ur, as one of the older cities of Sumer; used and created many tools, inventions, and ideas. Irrigation was used to water the crops in the fields by flowing water from artificial lakes so that the crops would be watered, even during droughts. As one of the earliest cities of Sumer; Ur used cuneiform for a longer time than Babylon or any other “young” Mesopotamian city-state. Cuneiform was used to mark goods and surpluses. Cuneiform was picture symbols that had meanings, and there were about 500 of them!!! Cuneiform was written on soft clay. Cuneiform was useful because, without any form of writing the city would have no records or tracks of events and items. The people of Ur; like all other Mesopotamian cities, used scribes that worked for nobles and the King. Scribes also had to learn mathematics; that what lead to the classic mathematical inventions that we use today: the 360 degree circle, the 60 minute hour, and the wheel [“Iraq: Crucible of Civilization”]. The wheel was an important device because it helped carts, carrying deveices, and early chariots move around and travel farther distances. Ur was a polytheistic city. It’s religion was pretty much the same as the rest of Mesopotamia’s. Ur had a ziggurat in it, praising the gods. A ziggurat is a lage step pyramid built out of clay mud bricks [mud + hay]. Ur also had roads and gates in the city, the roads made it easier to move aroung the city, and the gates protected the entrances to the city. Walls were also an essential tool for the city because they protected the city and intimidated forces attacking the city. The aqueduct was also an important tool/structure of the city because it enabled drinking water to be quickly transported from place to place. The standard of Ur was a sign that showed the ideals, economy, and culture of the people of Ur. There are two sides if the standard [sign]; one side is “War’, and the other side is “Peace”. The “Peace” side of the standard included; farmers carrying crops and leading domesticated animals toward the top [of three levels] level with noblemen, scribes, musicians, and the largest figure; the king. This shows the economy and peacetime culture of Ur.The “War” side of the Standard of Ur shows; battle wagons being carried by horses with soldiers, foot soldiers smiting foreign armies, foreign army prisoners, and what seems to be a large figure who might be the king or the lead general. The Standard of Ur is one of the most ideas in culture that the people of Ur produced. It shows war culture and peacetime culture. This shows the Sumerian city of Ur was one of the original cities of Sumer; it produced many inventions ideas, and really sustained itself, its economy, and it’s city state power; until the Euphrates River shifted course. It is a model city for all cities in this century.

Mesopotamia Caption 3- Nineveh-

According to Nineveh Article, Nineveh is located on the banks of the Tigris and Khawsar Rivers. It is located in northern Mesopotamia; even more north than Nimrud and Ashur!!! When the Assyrian Empire controlled Mesopotamia at its height, Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire. Nineveh; as an important city to the Assyrian Empire before the Babylonians defeated the Assyrians, was heavily guarded and protected. It had many thick, and tall walls with multiple stronge gates guarding the entrances to the city. Back in ancient times there were many forests and fertile plains surrounding Nineveh, but there was also deserts; like in all of Mesopotamia.

The economy of Nineveh was very much like that of all of the other Mesopotamian city-states. The basic jobs that sustained the basic economy of Nineveh were; farmers who grew crops and herded livestock, tradesmen who sold things to people in exchange for things such as money or crafts back, and craftsmen who made crafts and goods that could be sold. According to The Epic of Gilgamesh, Mesopotamian city states had many specific jobs in their city’s, like we do today, such as; jewelers, bronze workers, ivory workers, iron workers, and many more. Slaves were one of the most important assets of the economy. Slaves were unpaid servants; treated poorly and made to perform the worst jobs and labors. The army was also an important asset of the economy, because without it the city’s goods, crafts, and supplies would be stolen and plundered. The food supplies of the city can simply be divided up into groups. According to Our World, The two main groups are crops, and livestock, they get divided down into livestock- cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs, and, crops- fruits and vegetables. Fruits and vegetables then can be narrowed down into specific crops; Fruits- grapes, melons, pomegranates, dates, apples, and bananas. Vegetables- onions, cucumbers, lettuce, beans, and herbs.

Nineveh, as one of the early cities of Mesopotamia; used many of the inventions Ideas, and tools of Mesopotamia. Irrigation was used to keep the crops watered and growing by flowing water along artificial paths. To build their great structures, the people used mud bricks [mud + hay]. The people built gates, walls, ziggurats, palaces, prisons, and many other essentials to the city. Inside the city, roads were built to make moving around in the city easier for the people who lived in it. Walls were an essential asset to the city because they defended the city, showed the city’s power, and intimidated forces attacking the city. Aqueducts were also an important tool because they enabled drinking water to be moved from place to place quickly, and effectively. According to the Nineveh Article, Nineveh was a city with many parks and gardens. Nineveh [like all other Mesopotamian cities] used scribes to read and write because many people didn’t want to spend the time to learn how to. It was also complicated to learn reading and writing because not everybody went to school. The written language of the people of Nineveh; [like all other Mesopotamians] cuneiform, were picture symbols that had meanings written on clay tablets. Cuneiform was used to keep track of materials and record events. Thinking back to religion; ziggurats were step pyramids that honored one of the many gods of Mesopotamia. The Mesopotamians were polytheistic, which meant that they worshipped many different gods who represented different things or ideas. According to the Nineveh Article, Nineveh had a great library inside the city that had long records, epics, and schematics of inventions. According to “Iraq- Crucible of Civilization”, Nineveh used and believed in the three most important mathematical ideas and inventions of Mesopotamia; the 60 minute hour, the wheel, and the 360 degree circle. The wheel was an important device because it helped carrying devices, carts, and early chariots move around easier, faster, and for greater distances. Nineveh was a great power back in ancient times, and because of it’s greatness back then, should be honored today too.